



The Buddy Beat Sponsored Drum
“Keep the Beat”
2nd September 2010

Perhaps 2 or 3 months back our mother Jeanette Allan met by chance a film-maker named James Cairns. The result of that meeting was the chance for Buddy Beat to have a film/documentary made. This was too good a chance to pass up and Jeanette soon enrolled Tom as the liaison with James.

Jeanette, with the help of Hazel, applied to See Me, a government backed objective to stamp out mental health stigma, for a grant to help fund this new and exciting venture but was unsuccessful in her bid. Tom had been floating around an idea in his little brain for some time and suggested that Buddy Beat have a sponsored drum event to raise funds for the film. The gang were all up for it and busied themselves gathering sponsorship. The idea was simple- Keep the Beat for a full sixty minutes collectively as a group. This was in fact something never tried before. Every Thursday when the group meets, the session always starts with a group jam, which can last 20 minutes or so on a good day. To try and play for an hour was a challenge indeed, but Tom knew that his friends would give it their all.

The Buddy Beaters were:-

John Adams, Jeanette Allan, Karen Auld, Jane Bentley, Marian Bisland, Hazel Borland, Tom Chalmers, Anne Dowie, Mary Graham, Jackie McDowall, Eileen McGrory, Christine Robertson, Ian Tobin, Noreen Young and also student O/T Ashleen and Buddy Beat friend David Wright from Acumen ... and Lesley King -despite being in a different country. Read on to learn how!

Before the big kick-off, Tom and Jane explained some basic rules, the most important of which was to have fun. Tom informed the group that member Lesley King, who has been in London caring for her family, was simultaneously sitting in the big capital with her drum ready for action. A satellite link was too expensive, but everyone seemed really tickled that Lesley was joining us in this way!

Jane has this beautiful brass bowl that can be chimed with a brass baton and she gave us 5 tings by way of a countdown and suddenly we were off. Tom fired the stopwatch on his mobile phone on to make sure the full 60 minutes would be adhered to. The room was full of drum beats and it has to be said, some of the crew, including Jane our beloved leader, looked a tad unsure in those first few moments how we were going to fill the time. Jane and Tom had placed various percussion instruments and Boomwhackers in the centre of the circle for people to switch to when they pleased and it was Mary and David who made the first move. This changed the tempo a little and people began to relax more, sensing that the variety on offer would steer them through.



The gang doing what they do best- making music

Before we knew it our first 15 minutes were up and when Jane announced this, everyone's batteries were re-energised and the tempo zapped skyward. Mary seemed intent on trying out as many percussion instruments as she could and this encouraged others to try the same and the beat became mellow and almost Caribbean in style. Tom and Jeanette had started using Boomwhackers and Jeanette made us all start and then giggle when she somehow contrived to send a wooden frog that was sitting on her drum and a large yellow Boomwhacker, flying across the circle.



*Buddy Beat in full flow.
John "The Hat Man" Adams is sitting with his back to the camera*

Suddenly half an hour was gone and we would now see the finish line, and once again Jane's announcement changed the beat. Fast and frantic we became and then Jane quietened it down by asking some of us to take the Boomwhackers and the other to pick up the handbells and for a delightful few moments the Art Centre was filled with rhythmic tube whacking and plenty of chirpy ting-a-lings from the bells. What's neat about the group is we don't need to be told what to do and we just moved on to another beat by going back to the drums. Christine got us back on the drum beat and most soon followed with a couple filling the spaces with percussion. 45 minutes came and went and now we were on the final furlong. Jane then had us all continuing with the beat while she played a loud rumble and then she picked someone else to do the same. We played that for several minutes and great fun it was too. Five minutes to go and Jane then split us into two with one half jamming and the other rumberling and this was terrific to hear until before we knew it we were in the final 30 seconds and we ended with a loud countdown from 10 to 1 and finished on an almighty group rumble! Whew! Everyone cheered and clapped and you could tell be the smiles all around that everyone had enjoyed it. There aren't many better ways to pass an hour!

The music really flowed and changed smoothly several times and it was a pity it hadn't been recorded. After we had all slapped one another's backs, Tom and Hazel moved to a preset table at the rear of the hall, when everyone was invited to come up and hand over their dosh. At the same time, another table had been set up by Tom and was referred to as The Fuel Stop, where the gang were able to snack on crisps, juice and chocolate biscuits (which seemed to be a big hit!)

Once all the money had been gathered in, Tom was able to announce rather proudly the total. Tom confided that when the idea was born he had hoped to gather between £300 and £400. Now, before this event, Hazel and Allan had helped Jane at two events in Glasgow called Wild in the City! Hazel and Allan made the magnificent gesture of donating their £100 fee to the sponsored drum event. The total, with this included, was a stupendous £684.10. That was just brilliant and the effort in gathering sponsorship and the dedication and stamina of the gang during the event was a credit to us all. With a few more pennies to come in, we will surely pass the £700.00 mark.



Donald and Ivana Trump working out their finances

Tom had wanted to honour everyone who took part and brought gold winners medals for everyone. Assisted by Jane they then proceeded around the room with Jane making each presentation with a quip which had us all laughing. Jane referred to John and awarded his medal for wearing the best hats and to Eileen for having the best transport (her mobility scooter is famous in Renfrewshire) and to David for being Buddy Beat's biggest friend. Kudos to student Ashleen who had never been to us before and she held her own the whole way through! Bet it beats pen-pushing any day!

David Wright emailed Tom the following morning and said the event had been a cracker and when he went to bed that night he realised that he was still wearing his gold medal!

What a great event! We set ourselves a challenge and nailed it, having a lot of fun and laughter and raised a fantastic sum of money. Well done everyone!



Everyone's A Winner

Words and pictures by Tom Chalmers